

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, RECONNAISSANCE
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION**

BEFORE THE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AND THE

TERRORISM, UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS & CAPABILITIES

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INTRODUCTION

Good morning Chairwoman Davis, Chairman Smith, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Miller, and Members of the Subcommittees. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before the Subcommittees on Military Personnel and on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities on the acquisition oversight of TRICARE Management Activity's (TMA) two Major Automated Information Systems (MAIS): Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application (AHLTA) and Theater Medical Information System - Joint (TMIP-J). I am the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Information Technology Acquisition (C3ISR & IT Acquisition) within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration. I am here today representing Mr. John Grimes, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/Department of Defense Chief Information Officer, or ASD(NII)/DoD CIO. I provide acquisition oversight for Mr. Grimes on major defense acquisition programs and major automated information systems programs on programs delegated to the ASD(NII)/DoD CIO by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

The ASD(NII)/DoD CIO, for whom I work, is the Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) for both AHLTA and TMIP-J. The ASD(NII)/DoD CIO's primary responsibility as the MDA is to make decisions on whether a MAIS

should be initiated and whether that program should proceed into the various phases of the acquisition life cycle. At each major decision point, the MDA must determine whether the program or a key increment of the program should be terminated, modified or approved to proceed. A key part of this responsibility is determining whether the program is complying with the Department's acquisition policies documented in the DoD 5000 series and the requirements of the subtitle III of U.S.C. title 40 (formerly called the Clinger-Cohen Act).

The ASD(NII)/DoD CIO carries out these responsibilities with the advice and assistance of other oversight officials in the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff and in the DoD Component responsible for acquiring the system. Among the most important of these is the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)) who is the Principal Staff Assistant or functional sponsor for the AHLTA and TMIP-J program. He is responsible for determining and approving the needs and requirements for the program and for establishing the mission-related performance outcomes that the program is intended to achieve.

The ASD(HA) also serves as the Director, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) who functions as the Component Acquisition Executive (CAE). The Military Health System CIO and the Program Executive Officer Joint Information Management Systems are also key oversight officials, as they are closest to the program, oversee the day-to-day actions of the program manager and are primarily responsible for ensuring that the program is compliant with the Department's

acquisition and IT policies and regulations. These individuals and a number of other OSD and Joint Staff officials comprise a team that advises the ASD(NII)/DoD CIO as to whether a program should be terminated, modified, or approved to proceed.

Acquiring automated information systems without a production component is significantly different from acquiring a weapons system. For weapons systems we concentrate on key risk areas like technology maturity and producing large numbers of custom hardware in economic quantities. In contrast for automated information systems we concentrate reducing risk in areas like process reengineering, enterprise architectures, information assurance, and integration of multiple commercial off-the-shelf applications. The challenges of information technology acquisition is being addressed by a Defense Science Board study directed in the fiscal year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act that should be released shortly. I believe this report will recommend changes to our acquisition processes that will result in new capabilities being acquired sooner and at less cost than under the current DoD 5000 series.

CONCLUSION

This concludes my prepared remarks addressing the topics you asked me to focus on. Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am prepared to entertain any questions you might have